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SOURCE Meditsinskiy Rabotnik, No 35, 1949.VENEREAL DISEASES ON DECLINE

E. Ashurkov, Chief
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Ministry Public Health, RSFSR

Delegates to the First All-Union Conference of Dermatologists and Venereologists in Leningrad were assured that the Communist way of life is slowly but surely emerging the victor in the fight against venereal diseases. The rapid decrease in the venereal disease morbidity rate was attributed to the excellent work being done by public health institutions. However, the attending members were cautioned that their major effort should be directed toward the elimination of new disease foci.

In general the number of syphilis cases is decreasing. Public health organizations are successfully carrying out the second year of a program for the eventual elimination of all venereal disease cases in the USSR. Rural health units in Moscow, Stalingrad, Tambov, and Novosibirsk oblasts and Stavropol' Krai have organized effective antivenereal-disease programs. It is suggested that similar measures be adopted by doctors at rural health units throughout the USSR, and that every effort be made to improve the quality of the treatments and qualifications of medical personnel administering treatment.

The delegates to the conference were loud in their acclaim of the hospital and polyclinic unification program. They were particularly enthusiastic over the results achieved with respect to decrease in the number of dermatovenereological cases. Various delegates submitted concrete evidence of the effectiveness of the unification program. Mikhel'son, chief surgeon, Kurgan Oblast Dispensary, noted a decrease in the number of erroneous diagnosis and an improvement in laboratory techniques. Dermatovenereologists from Bashkir ASSR stressed the importance of preventive treatment, particularly for fungus diseases in institutions for children.

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However, no attempt was made to hide the undesirable side of the picture. Reports were submitted which showed that public health and medical institutions in Rostov, Velikiye Luki, Crimea, Orlov, and other oblasts had not carried out some of the most basic improvement programs. Dispensaries in Penzen, Smolensk, and other oblasts were criticised for their utter lack of interest in carrying out improvement programs.

Prof N. A. Torsuyev of Rostov-on-Don described the effectiveness of staphylococcus antiphagin for treating suppurative diseases of the skin (furuncles, etc.).

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